

REMARKS***Summary of the Amendment***

Upon consideration of the instant response, claims 2 - 13, 15 - 37, and 39 - 53 will remain pending.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 16 - 21, 25 - 37, and 39 - 53 are allowed, but that claims 2 - 13, 15, and 22 - 24 remain rejected over the art of record. By the present remarks, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Interview with Examiner Hug

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy extended to their representative by Examiner Hug in conducting a personal interview on September 9, 2004. In the interview, the distinguishing features of the present invention were discussed, and it was noted that the art of record fails to teach or suggest any utility for the intermediate structure of the primary document, such that the disclosure is not enabling for the structure identified by the Examiner.

The distinguishing features and arguments presented by Applicants' representative are likewise presented in the instant response.

Traversal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

1. Over Chalon

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 2 - 13, 15, 22 - 24, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over CHALON (U.S. Patent No. 1,925,917). The Examiner asserts that CHALON shows an endless press belt in which the press belt is made of a metal web or metal sheets, to provide reinforcement, for an impregnating material such as rubber. The Examiner also asserts that, as the CHALON belt is perforated for draining, it is apparent that, prior to perforating, the belt is impermeable, as recited. Applicants traverse the Examiner's assertions.

Applicants' independent claim 2 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material and arranged to form interstices, and *a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable*, wherein the belt supports a paper web in the web producing machine. Applicants submit that no proper modification of CHALON teaches the above-noted features.

Applicants initially note that the subject matter identified by the Examiner is not structure that is the invention of CHALON, rather the Examiner has referred to an intermediate structure that is not utilized in the manner disclosed by CHALON for the practice of the invention. In other words, Applicants submit that, as there is no disclosed utility for the intermediate structure of CHALON individually, i.e., without being subsequently perforated, CHALON is not enabling under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for teaching one ordinarily skilled in the art how to use the roll as a final product.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that CHALON, in manner in which has been applied against the pending claims, is not prior art against Applicants' invention.

Further, while Applicants acknowledge that the rubber material forming part of the intermediate structure of CHALON is water impermeable, it is an express requirement of CHALON that the rubber material be perforated to be water permeable.

Thus, Applicants further submit that, as the express disclosure of CHALON teaches against the Examiner's asserted modification, the art of record fails to provide any teaching or suggestion for modifying CHALON in the manner asserted by the Examiner. In fact, as the applied art expressly teaches against the asserted modification, Applicants submit that the art of record cannot even arguably teach or suggest the requisite motivation or rationale for modifying CHALON in the manner asserted by the Examiner.

Still further, Applicants submit that CHALON teaches a fiber or metal web on which the rubber layer is deposited, not a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material and arranged to form interstices, as recited in at least independent claim 2. While the Examiner asserts that this fiber or metal web of CHALON "reads on" the recited long-chain strength supports, the Examiner has not shown any teaching or suggestion that it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art to replace the fiber or metal web of CHALON with the plurality of long-chain strength supports, as recited in at least independent claim 2.

Moreover, Applicants note that, even assuming, *arguendo*, that one ordinarily skilled in the art found it obvious to replace the fiber or metal web of CHALON with the recited plurality of long-chain strength supports (which Applicants submit one would not), it is not apparent that, once the belt is perforated in the manner required by CHALON that the severed long-chain strength supports would operate in the manner intended by the fiber or metal web of CHALON.

Because it is not apparent whether the asserted modified arrangement of CHALON would operate in its intended manner, Applicants submit that the asserted modification would not have been obvious at the time of the instant invention. Thus, Applicants submit that the instant rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants submit that claims 3 - 13, 15, and 22 - 24 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that CHALON fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, that the long-chain strength supports comprise a metal having a high thermal conductivity, as recited in claim 3; that the metal is one of stainless steel and bronze, as recited in claim 4; that the long-chain strength supports comprise filaments, as recited in claim 5; that the filaments comprise a metal, as recited in claim 6; that the long-chain strength supports comprise a substantially circular cross-section, as recited in claim 7; that the long-chain strength supports comprise a

substantially rectangular cross-section, as recited in claim 8; that the long-chain strength supports comprise a substantially square cross-section, as recited in claim 9; that the long-chain strength supports comprise a substantially oval cross-section, as recited in claim 10; that the long-chain strength supports comprise a polygonal cross-section, as recited in claim 11; that the long-chain strength supports comprise a variable cross-sectional shape along their lengths, as recited in claim 12; that the filler comprises a plastic, as recited in claim 13; that the fluid is a liquid, as recited in claim 15; that the belt comprises a screen as recited in claim 22; that the screen is flexible and formed of woven long-chain strength supports as recited in claim 23; and that the belt comprises an interwoven sheet of the long-chain strength supports as recited in claim 24.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable.

2. Over Majaniemi

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 2 - 6, 13, 15, and 22 - 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MAJANIEMI (U.S. Patent No. 4,482,430). The Examiner asserts that MAJANIEMI shows a compressible press band that is impermeable to water that comprises a polymeric material and a support structure, which can be steel, for absorbing longitudinal and transverse forces. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to form the support as an interconnecting structure of metallic wires or threads oriented as a wire mesh or screen. Applicants traverse the Examiner's assertions.

As noted above, Applicants' independent claim 2 recites, *inter alia*, *a plurality of long-chain strength supports* composed of a metallic material and *arranged to form interstices* and *a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable*, wherein the belt supports a paper web in the web producing machine. Applicants submit that MAJANIEMI fails to teach or suggest the above-noted features.

While MAJANIEMI discloses a liquid-impermeable belt 2 for a press roll (see col. 3, line 19), which may include a support structure 15 that can be made of a material such as steel (see col. 4, lines 10 - 19), Applicants note that the Examiner has not identified any teaching in the applied art that the support structure is composed of *a plurality of long-chain strength supports* composed of a metallic material and *arranged to form interstices*, as recited in at least independent claim 2. In fact, Applicants submit that the Examiner is relying upon unsubstantiated assertions regarding the construction of the support structure of MAJANIEMI. That is, the Examiner appears to have taken undue liberties in interpreting the support structure as including structure for which there is no suggestion in disclosure.

Thus, Applicants submit that, as the Examiner's assertions are based, not upon the disclosure of MAJANIEMI, but instead upon Applicants' own disclosure, the instant rejection is based upon the use of impermissible hindsight, such that the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that claims 3 - 6, 13, 15 and 22-24 are allowable at

least for the reason that these claims depend from an allowable base claim and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper modification of MAJANIEMI teaches or suggests, *inter alia*, the long-chain strength supports comprise a metal having a high thermal conductivity, as recited in claim 3; that the metal is one of stainless steel and bronze, as recited in claim 4; that the long-chain strength supports comprise filaments, as recited in claim 5; that the filaments comprise a metal, as recited in claim 6; that the filler comprises a plastic, as recited in claim 13; that the fluid is a liquid, as recited in claim 15; that the belt comprises a screen as recited in claim 22; that the screen is flexible and formed of woven long-chain strength supports as recited in claim 23; and that the belt comprises an interwoven sheet of the long-chain strength supports as recited in claim 24.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable.

Authorization to Charge Deposit Account

If for any reason a check including the amount for any necessary fees is not associated with this file, the Commissioner is authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 19 - 0089 the amounts identified herein for the missing check, as well as any necessary fees not explicitly identified, including any extensions of time fees required to place the application in condition for allowance by Examiner's Amendment, in order to maintain pendency of this

application.

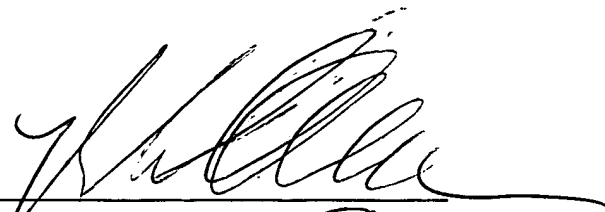

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicants' invention, as recited in each of the pending claims. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,
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P18720.A12

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September 13, 2004
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